

MATURE READERS GABBORIN LOGAN PERRELET

1 DIGITAL
RELEASE

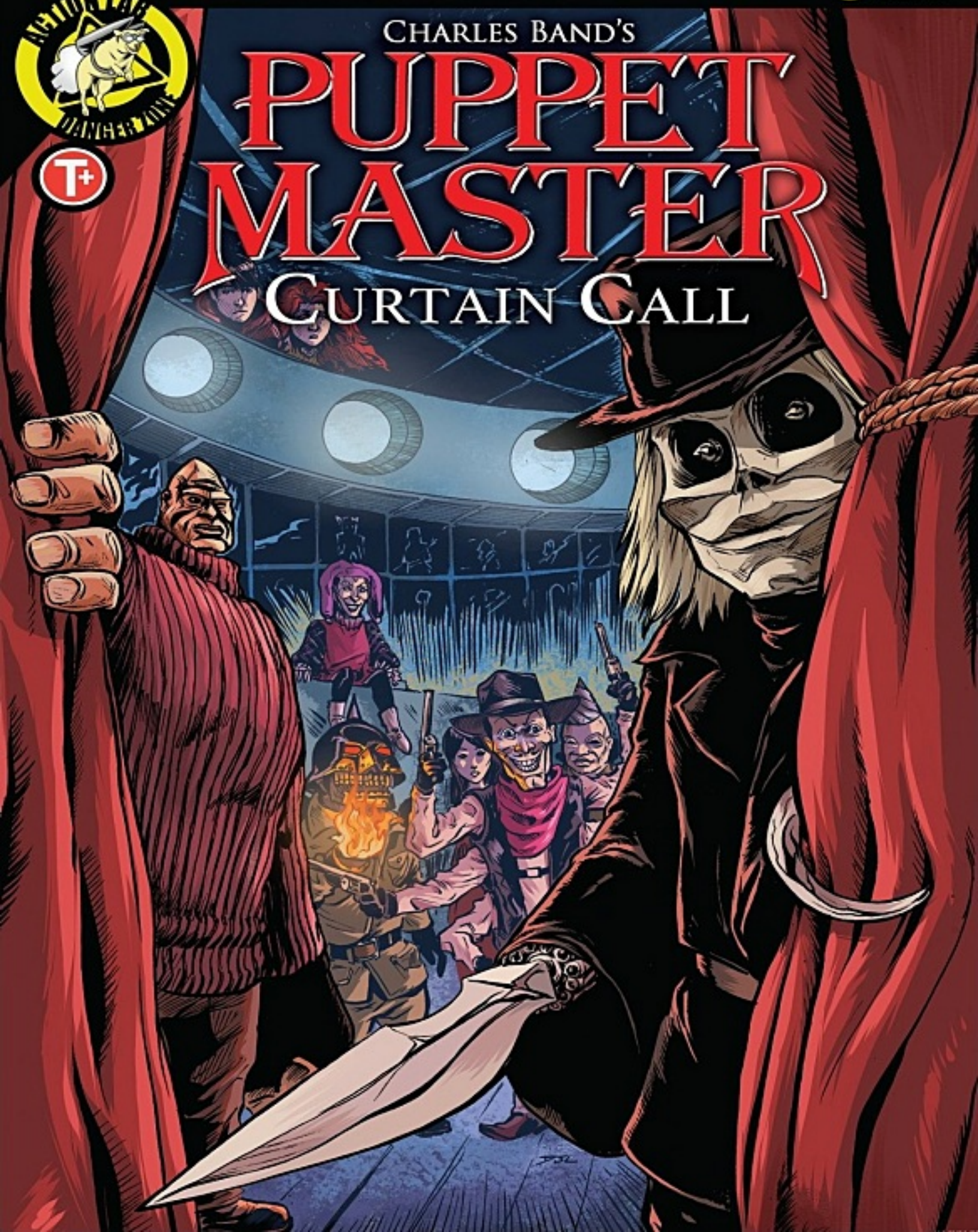


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CHARLES BAND'S

PUPPET MASTER

CURTAIN CALL



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**PUPPET
MASTER**
CURTAIN CALL

PART ONE

**WRITTEN BY:
SHAWN GABBORIN**

**ART BY:
DANIEL J. LOGAN**

**COLORS BY:
YANN PERRELET**

Jason Martin: Publisher

Shawn Gabborin: Editor in Chief

Nicole D'Andria: Marketing Director/Editor

Jim Dietz: Social Media Manager

Danielle Davison: Executive Administrator

Bryan Seaton: CEO

Shawn Pryor: President of Creator Relations

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AREN'T THEY
FANTASTIC?



AS SOME OF YOU
KNOW, SIX SHOOTER
HERE HAD SPENT
SEVERAL DECADES
IN MY EMPLOY...

...BEFORE
BREAKING AWAY
A NUMBER OF
YEARS AGO...

...SO I AM
MOST PLEASED
TO HAVE HIM
BACK.



THIS IS RIDICULOUS.
I TIPPED YOU OFF ON
WHERE TO FIND THEM...
AND NOW I GET TO DIE
FOR IT?



NOT ASSURELY,
DIRECTOR
CROWE, NO.

YOU SEE,
YOU ALL HAVE
A CHANCE TO LIVE...
BUT ONLY ONE OF
YOU WILL. AND WITH
THAT ONE I WILL
SHAPE MY MEANS OF
IMMORTALITY.



IMMORTALITY?

BULL
SHIT.

I ASSURE YOU,
IT'S TRUE. ASK FRITZ
HERE. WE JOINED THE
SS TOGETHER. I BELIEVE
I EVEN HAVE A YEAR OR
TWO ON HIM.

HHRRMM...



SO...
WHAT ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO?





IT SEEMS
NOT THIS OLD
BASTARD IS STILL
BREATHING.







THAT IS NOT HOW
I LIKE TO START
MY DAY.

BOULDESTON INSTITUTE
FOR MENTALLY TROUBLED TOTS AND TEENS

I SEE WHAT'S INSIDE
OF PEOPLE... OR WHAT
COULD BE THERE.
GOOD AND BAD.

SOMETIMES I
WISH I COULDN'T.

I'VE GOT THIS... THING.
AN ABILITY? A SUPER-
POWER? I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO CALL IT.

I SEE
THINGS.

WHICH IS WHY I
TRY NOT TO LOOK
DIRECTLY AT THE
TWO OF THEM.

I'VE ALREADY SEEN
WHAT MAY HAPPEN
TO ANTHONY.



THE ONE WITH THE BEARD IS **ANDRE TOULON**. AT ONE POINT HE WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST PUPPETEER.

HE USED AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN TECHNIQUE TO REVIVE THE SOULS OF HIS FRIENDS INTO HIS PUPPETS.

HE HAS DIED A FEW TIMES, BUT ALWAYS FINDS A WAY BACK.

THE OTHER ONE--

--THE ONE WITH THE BLACK HAIR AND WOODEN LEGS--

--IS **ANTHONY**, THE MOST RECENT MASTER OF TOULON'S PUPPETS.

HE ACTUALLY LED THEM IN A BATTLE AGAINST AN EVIL EGYPTIAN GOD NAMED ANAPA WHO TRIED TO INVADE OUR WORLD.

AND PEOPLE THINK I'M CRAZY.

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN, ANTHONY?

BETTER. MUCH BETTER, ACTUALLY.

I STILL HAVE MY ANXIETIES, BUT BEING MOVED FROM SOLITARY IS A DEFINITE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES I START TO THINK THAT EVERYTHING WE DID... EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED WITH THE PUPPETS... WAS JUST UP HERE. BUT YOU BEING HERE PROVES IT WASN'T.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE YOU HEADED OFF TO PETERSTOWN. HOW DID THAT GO?

IT WENT THE ONLY WAY THAT TRYING TO REASON WITH A CULT WHO ACTUALLY WANTS TO BECOME WOODEN PEOPLE CAN GO.

BADLY.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

I DID WHAT I COULD, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH.

I DID FREE THEM FROM THEIR MASTER, HOWEVER... SO AT LEAST THERE IS THAT.

TOULON DID DEFEAT THE CULT LEADER, BUT ANAPA HAS HIM NOW...

...WHICH I'M SURE IS A BAD THING.

DID I FORGET TO MENTION ANAPA SURVIVED THEIR BATTLE BY PUTTING HIS SOUL INTO A PUPPET? THAT'S IMPORTANT!



AND WHAT
OF THE REST
OF THE PUPPETS?
HAVE YOU SEEN
THEM?

NO.

I-I KNOW
WHERE THEY
ARE.

YOU...
HOW?

YOU
KNOW, I SEE
THINGS.

CEDAR, DEAR,
LOVELY TO SEE
YOU AGAIN. COME,
SIT WITH US.

...THANKS.

A MAN
WHO CALLS
HIMSELF "THE
COLLECTOR"
HAS THEM.

HE USED THEM
TO KILL A BUNCH
OF PEOPLE LAST
NIGHT.

HE'S WAY
OLDER THAN HE
LOOKS. HE HAS USED
YOUR SERUM TO KEEP
HIMSELF ALIVE FOR
A LONG TIME.

IF THAT'S
TRUE, HE IS NOT
SOMEONE I WISH
TO LEAVE THEM
WITH.

WHERE
CAN I FIND THIS
COLLECTOR?





ANAPAP
YOU COULD'VE
CALLED AHEAD.

I MUST
SAY, YOU LOOK
MUCH SMALLER
IN PERSON.



AFTER ALL
THE TROUBLE
I WENT THROUGH
TO FIND THEM?
I DON'T THINK
SO.

I TRACKED
THEM TO THAT
SECRET TEMPLE OF
YOURS, HIDDEN IN
THE CALLIDASH
WOODS.

I WILL
MAKE THIS GRIEF
I AM HERE FOR
TOULON'S
LIVING PUPPETS.



THEY WERE LOOKING
FOR THIS. I BELIEVE THE
NAME OF THIS WEAPON
TRANSLATES INTO
"GOD KILLER."

THIS
WAS CRAFTED
SPECIFICALLY TO
BE USED ON YOU,
CORRECT?



AND YOU
CAN SEE BY MY
STANDING BEFORE YOU
JUST HOW WELL THAT
WORKED OUT FOR ITS
CREATORS.



YOU HAVE
BEEN LIVING OFF
OF MY MAGIC FOR
LONG ENOUGH. IT
IS TIME TO WEIGH
YOUR HEART.

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
YOU--



LATER THAT EVENING.



EVERYONE!

WELCOME TO
THE BODESA
BAY INN!

MY NAME
IS CINDY, THIS IS MY
HUSBAND JOHN. WE ARE
SO HAPPY TO HAVE YOU
STAYING WITH US!

YOU ARE
IN ROOM 312.
IT'S UP THE STAIRS
TO THE RIGHT. OUR
BELLHOP IS ON
BREAK, SO LET ME
HELP YOU WITH
YOUR BAGS.

THAT WOULD
BE VERY NICE.
THANK YOU.

YEP
THIS HOTEL
HAS A LOT OF
HISTORY.

I HEARD
IT WAS
HAUNTED.

WELL, WE DON'T LIKE
TO PROMOTE THAT, BUT
THERE HAVE BEEN
RUMORS OF EVERY-
THING FROM GHOSTS
TO ZOMBIES TO
KILLER DOLLS IN
THIS PLACE.

IT ALL
SOUNDS KIND
OF SILLY
TO ME.

I HAVEN'T
SEEN ANYTHING
HERE TO MAKE
ME BELIEVE--





WHAT A SHAME.



BECAUSE DEATH IS ORDER.



THEY KILLED J-JOHN.

THEY'RE KILLING A LOT MORE THAN JUST YOUR HUSBAND.







MAYBE
I CAN.

ANTHONY?
WHAT ARE
YOU...



WHOA.

PRETTY
COOL,
RIGHT?



ANTHONY!
AREN'T YOU
A SIGHT FOR
SORE EYES!

I CAN
BRING THEIR
SOULS HERE
SO WE CAN
TALK.



THIS IS CEDAR.
SHE CAN SEE
THE FUTURE...
AND WHAT SHE'S
SEEN IS BAD.

BUT I
THINK WE
CAN CHANGE
THAT.

I THINK I CAN FREE
YOU FROM ANAPA'S
CONTROL... IF I
TAKE THE ROLE OF
MASTER AGAIN.



YOU AND
ME AIN'T ALWAYS
SEEN EYE TO EYE,
BUT I'VE SPENT TOO
LONG FIGHTING ON
BOTH SIDES OF TOO
MANY WARS.

I'M DONE
BEING A PAWN
FOR THE BAD
GUYS.





Afterward...

So here it is. The final story arc for Action Lab's Puppet Master comic. Whether you've been with us since the beginning (thanks for your support!) or this is your first issue (welcome to the show!), I truly hope you enjoyed this comic.

To be completely honest, Puppet Master has been a lifelong obsession for me. The first film came out when I was eight years old. I can't recall if I saw it right away or not, but I do know that I saw part two when it a "new release" at our local video store. My friends and I wore that VHS tape out over the years!

That's the thing about these movies: we loved them! Back then, it was more than just sitting down, watching a movie, and moving on. We would get deep into them. We knew the continuity. We would speculate on backstories that were never expressly told. We would argue over which puppet was the best (Pinhead, for those keeping score). For us, these movies were an experience.

Jump ahead to 2014, a full 25 years after the first movie was released, and I did the same thing we did back then: I watched the full franchise in order. Granted, by 2014 there were ten movies in the series, and due to being an adult with a family and a job, it took me a week or two rather than a night or two... but I did it. And I loved it just as much in 2014 as I did in 1996. The creative kills, the amazing puppet designs. It was everything my little horror-loving heart could want.

But there were gaps. A jump in continuity here, an unanswered question there. These little things that bothered me growing up were still there, but now I had 10 years of comic writing experience under my belt, and could view the full franchise with a writer's eye. So I reached out to Full Moon to humbly ask if they would license the comic rights. Thankfully, they liked my pitch and said yes.

So I was off to the races! I still couldn't believe it. Here I was, giving back to a franchise that meant so much to my friends and I growing up. A film series that helped craft my love for the horror genre in the first place, and I was getting to play in that world!

And now we are at the end, at the curtain call. I knew it was coming. It was a three year deal. It sucks, but I'm proud of the work I was able to do. I'm proud of the stories I got to tell, and I'm proud of the artists I got to work with. It truly was an honor.

Thank you to Action Lab for helping out with the licensing and publishing of this book. Thank you to Charles Band and Full Moon for being so open to the stories I wanted to tell. And thank you all for reading them!

We've still got two more issues to go before we close that curtain. So stick around. It's almost over... but this finale is just getting started!

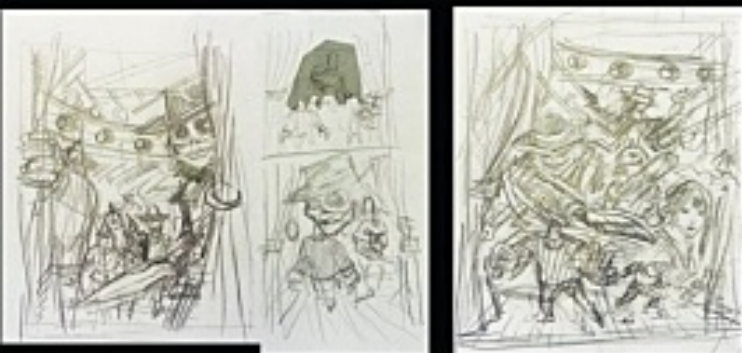
- Shawn Gabborin

PANEL ZONE:

A look behind the curtain at the cover creation with Daniel J. Logan!

Shawn wanted an iconic image with the main puppets for this finale that could work as a TPB cover as well.

from the beginning I thought incorporating a stage theme would be cool.



Cleaned up inks.



Layout/rough pencil on 11x17 copy paper.



The rad colors by Yann Perrelet!

